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MATTHEW SCHNEIDER

THE MEDIUM IN THE MIDDLE (TV GUIDE)
ITS "WESTWARD HO" FOR THIS YEAR'S VACATIONERS (U.S. NEWS)
THE WORLD'S CLIMATE: UNPREDICTABLE (TIME)

ANNCR: HERE IS _____ WITH FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK - VOICE OF AMERICA SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN MAGAZINES. TODAY SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TELEVISION CAN AVOID HELPING TERRORISTS FROM TV GUIDE; A REPORT ON WHERE AMERICANS ARE SPENDING THEIR SUMMER VACATIONS, FROM U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT; AND FROM TIME, A REPORT ON OUR EARTH'S CHANGING CLIMATE.

THE MEDIUM IN THE MIDDLE (TV GUIDE)

REPORTER: A RECENT REPORT BY THE UNITED STATES CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY PREDICTS THAT DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS THERE WILL BE AN INCREASE OF TERRORIST ACTS IN THE U-S CARRIED OUT BY FOREIGN-LINKED ACTIVITISTS. IN THE CONCLUSION OF A TWO-PART REPORT IN TV GUIDE NEIL HICKEY EXAMINES THE EFFECT TELEVISION HAS HAD ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. MR. HICKEY WRITES:

VOICE: "THE NUMBER AND PATTERN OF SUCH ACTS HAVE SUGGESTED TO EXPERTS THAT TERRORISTS LEARN, AND ARE INSPIRED BY, THE EXPLOITS OF OTHER TERRORISTS; THAT MEDIA TREATMENT OF TERRORIST ACTS SUBTLY FOSTERS A GLOBAL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH FURTHER VIOLENCE IS PROBABLE AND EVEN PREDICTABLE; AND THAT THE ENORMOUS PUBLICITY 'PAYOFF' OF TERRORISM MAKES IT IRRESTIBLE TO CERTAIN TYPES OF POLITICAL ZEALOTS."

REPORTER: THE QUESTION THEN IS: WHAT CAN TELEVISION DO TO AVOID STIMULATING OR PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF INTERNATIONAL

REPORTER: (CONT) TERRORISTS? THE ANSWER, SAYS MR. HICKEY, ARE FAR FROM SIMPLE.

ONE SUGGESTION BY SOME OBSERVERS IS THAT NEWS ABOUT TERRORISM OUGHT TO BE CENSORED OR, AT THE LEAST, TELEVISION OUGHT TO CENSOR ITSELF WHEN REPORTING ON TERRORIST ACTIONS. MOST SERIOUS CRITICS, SAYS MR. HICKEY, DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S A VERY GOOD IDEA. IF T-V WITHHOLDS NEWS OF TERRORIST ACTS, IT WOULD PLANT THE SEEDS OF RUMOR WHICH SOME EXPERTS SAY WOULD BE EVEN WORSE. MR. HICKEY WRITES:

VOICE: "EVEN IF TELEVISION DID CENSOR ITSELF, CLEVER ACTIVISTS WOULD TEST THE MEDIUM UNTIL THEY FOUND THE POINT WHERE THE SELF-CENSORSHIP BROKE DOWN. 'THEY'D SIMPLY CONDUCT EXTRAVAGANZAS THAT COULD NOT BE IGNORED,' SPECULATES POLITICAL SCIENTIST RAYMOND TANTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN."

REPORTER: OTHER THEORISTS DON'T BELIEVE TERRORISTS WOULD ESCALATE THEIR ATTACKS IF T-V IGNORED THEM. PSYCHIATRIST DAVID HUBBARD SAYS NINETY PER CENT OF THE TERRORISTS ARE, "BUMBLING DUM-DUMS TRYING TO MAKE NAMES FOR THEMSELVES." DR. HUBBARD SAYS IF TELEVISION CUT BACK COVERAGE OF THEIR ATTEMPTS AT HIJACKING, KIDNAPPING AND BOMBING THE TERRORISTS WOULD STOP. MR. HICKEY CONTINUES:

VOICE: "HUBBARD DISPUTES T-V NEWSMEN'S CONTENTION THAT THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW -- AS WELL AS THE JOURNALIST'S RIGHT TO REPORT -- IS ABSOLUTE. IS IT THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO KNOW OR THE ECONOMIC INTEREST OF TELEVISION THAT THESE MEN (TELEVISION EXECUTIVES) ARE CONCERNED WITH, HE WONDERS. T-V NEWS

VOICE: (CONT) DEPARTMENTS CAN HARDLY DENY THAT (REPORTING OF) SENSATIONAL EVENTS DRAW VIEWERS. BUT DOESN'T THE MEDIUM HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO THE PUBLIC TO STUDY THE QUESTIONS OF ITS ACTIONS? HE ASKS."

REPORTER: TELEVISION NEWS EXECUTIVES, NATURALLY ENOUGH TAKE THE OPPOSITE VIEW. THEY SAY THEY'RE DOING THE BEST THEY CAN UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THE PRESIDENT OF ABC NEWS, WILLIAM SHEEHAN TOLD TV GUIDE THAT TELEVISION NEWS OUGHT NOT GET INTO THE POSITION OF DECIDING WHAT PEOPLE SHOULD NOT KNOW. MR. SHEEHAN DENIES THAT THE NEWS MEDIA IS THE REASON FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITY "... EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY SOMETIMES BECOME PART OF THE STORY." MR. SHEEHAN FIRMLY BELIEVES TELEVISION NEWS HAS AN ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO REPORT ANYTHING BUT THAT T-V REPORTERS MUST USE GOOD JUDGEMENT IN COVERING TERRORISM.

C-B-S NEWS EXCUTIVE WILLIAM SMALL SAYS HIS ORGANIZATION HAS ITS OWN INTERNAL POLICES WHICH PERMIT THE DELAY OF REPORTING IF LIVES WOULD BE ENDANGERED, BUT HE SAYS THAT HAS NEVER HAPPENED. MR. SMALL CONTINUED:

VOICE: "'THE WORST THING THAT COULD HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY, FAR WORSE THAN ANY ACT OF TERRORISM, WOULD BE A LOSS OF FAITH IN THE NEWS REPORTING OF TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPERS. WE'RE NOT EDUCATORS, WE'RE NOT SOCIOLOGISTS. OUR ROLE REMAINS THAT OF A REPORTER -- TO GIVE PEOPLE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS WE CAN, AS STRAIGHT AS WE CAN AND WITH AS LITTLE HYSTERIA AS POSSIBLE.'"

REPORTER: THE CRUCIAL QUESTION AS MR. HICKEY SEES IT IS, HOW CAN TELEVISION COVER TERRORIST ACTS WITHOUT ENCOURAGING MORE OF THE SAME. ONE WAY, HE SAYS, IS TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF SPECIFIC INFORMATION ABOUT HOW TERRORISTS CARRY OUT THEIR ACTS, SO THAT POTENTIAL TERRORISTS CAN'T USE IT TO FURTHER THEIR OWN GOALS. OTHER SUGGESTIONS CITED BY MR. HICKEY INCLUDE:

VOICE: "DOWNPLAY OR EVEN, IN SOME CASES, OMIT THE NAMES OF TERRORIST GROUPS THAT 'CLAIM CREDIT' FOR VIOLENT ACTS, THERBY DENYING THEM...PUBLICY WHILE NOT DENYING VIEWERS THE NEWS OF THE CRIME ITSELF.

LIMIT LIVE COVERAGE OF KIDNAPINGS, SKYJACKINGS AND OTHER CRIMES INVOLVING HOSTAGES...

GIVE PROPER EMPHASIS TO THE INHUMAN AND BARBAROUS ASPECTS OF TERRORIST ACTS...WHICH SOMETIMES TEND TO APPEAR GLAMOROUS WHEN DESCRIBED BY T-V REPORTERS.

REFRAIN FROM ROUTINELY INTERVIEWING TERRORIST LEADERS ON CAMERA TO AVOID CONFERRING UPON THEM AN UNWARRANTED RESPECTABILITY.

GIVE AIR TIME TO TERRORIST ACTS ONLY IN REALISTIC PROPORTION TO THEIR OBJECTIVE NEWS VALUE, NO MATTER HOW EXCITING THE NEWS FILM ONE HAPPENS TO HAVE ON HAND.

EMPHASIZE STATISTICS THAT INDICATE THE LOW LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS FOR SUCH CRIMES AS ABDUCTION AND HIJACKING THERBY DISCOURAGING WOULD-BE OFFENDERS.

VOICE: (CONT) PROVIDE DOCUMENTARIES AND THOUGHTFUL ANALYSIS ON THE RANGE OF PROBLEMS FACING A COMMUNITY OR COUNTRY AND EVEN ACCESS TO THE AIRWAVES FOR THE VOICES OF REASON AMONG DISSIDENT GROUPS, THERBY REDUCING THE LIKELIHOOD OF THEIR RESORTING TO VIOLENCE TO HAVE THEIR GRIEVANCES HEARD."

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IT'S "WESTWARD HO" FOR THIS YEAR'S VACATIONERS (U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT)

REPORTER: AT ABOUT THIS TIME LAST YEAR TRAVEL EXPERTS IN THE UNITED STATES WERE PREDICTING THAT TENS OF MILLIONS OF TOURISTS WOULD INVADE EAST COAST CITIES RICH WITH HISTORIC ATTRACTIONS FOR THIS SUMMER'S BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS. BUT IN IT'S CURRENT ISSUE, U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT SAYS THAT WHILE CROWDS IN CITIES LIKE BOSTON, PHILADELPHIA, NEW YORK, BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON D-C ARE LARGE, THEY ARE NO WHERE NEAR THEIR PREDICTED SIZE.

THEN WHERE DID ALL THOSE TOURISTS GO? U.S. NEWS SAYS TO THE SOUTHEAST, SOUTHWEST, THE WEST COAST AND HAWAII.

VOICE: "THE WEST IS EXPERIENCING THE BIGGEST INFLUX OF VISITORS. FROM SAN DIEGO IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST AND THE MOUNTAIN STATES WITH THEIR SPRAWLING NATIONAL PARKS, VACATIONERS ARE ARRIVING IN RECORD NUMBERS."

REPORTER: THE MAGAZINE REPORTS THAT DURING THE FIRST HALF OF THIS YEAR NEARLY ONE AND ONE QUARTER MILLION PEOPLE HAVE VISITED THE GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK IN ARIZONA...UP NEARLY TWENTY-FIVE PER CENT.

REPORTER: (CONT) THE SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA AIRPORT RECORDED ITS LARGEST PASSENGER VOLUME EVER DURING THE YEAR THAT ENDED JUNE THIRTIETH. ONE LOS ANGLES OFFICIAL SAYS THE INCREASE IN TOURISM THIS YEAR HAS BEEN "ASTOUNDING." COLORADO AND NEVADA TOURIST OFFICIALS SAY THEIR VISITOR BUSINESS IS UP AS MUCH AS NINETEEN PER CENT.

BUT WHY AREN'T VACATIONERS HEADING EAST FOR THE BICENTENNIAL SUMMER? U-S NEWS SAYS:

VOICE: MANY TRAVELERS TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONFIRM THAT SCARE STORIES OF SERIOUS OVERCROWDING IN THE BICENTENNIAL CITIES OF THE EAST INFLUENCED THEIR DECISIONS TO HEAD WEST... TRAVEL AGENCIES IN MIDDLE AMERICA SAY BUSINESS IS BETTER THAN EXPECTED THIS SUMMER. 'PEOPLE LONG FOR THE WIDE-OPEN SPACES OF THE WEST INSTEAD OF THE CROWDS AND BUILDINGS OF THE BICENTENNIAL CITIES,' SAYS THE MANAGER OF A CHICAGO (TRAVEL) AGENCY."

REPORTER: THE MAGAZINE CONCLUDES THAT THIS SUMMER MORE AMERICANS THAN EVER BEFORE ARE TRAVELING THE COUNTRY, BUT THE TRAVEL AUTHORITIES JUST MISREAD THEIR INTENTIONS.

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THE WORLD'S CLIMATE: UNPREDICTABLE (TIME)

REPORTER: THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT EVERYBODY TALKS ABOUT WEATHER BUT NOBODY CAN DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. AND IN ITS CURRENT ISSUE TIME MAGAZINE REPORTS THAT DESPITE SPACE-AGE ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY AND FORECASTING TECHNIQUES, CLIMATOLOGY-- THE STUDY OF LONG-RANGE TRENDS IN WEATHER -- IS STILL AN

REPORTER: (CONT) INEXACT SCIENCE. TIME SAYS CLIMATOLOGISTS STILL DON'T AGREE WHETHER THE EARTH'S LONG-RANGE FORECAST INCLUDES ANOTHER ICE AGE OR WARMING TREND WHICH COULD MELT THE ICE CAPS AND FLOOD COASTAL AREAS OF THE WORLD. TIME SAYS:

VOICE: "IN FACT, SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO EXPLAIN THE BASIC CAUSES OF THE BIZARRE WEATHER THAT AFFLICTED MUCH OF THE WORLD THIS SUMMER. RECORD RAINS AND FLOODS SOAKED SOME AREAS WHILE DROUGHTS PARCHED OTHERS, WITH POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EFFECTS."

REPORTER: TIME NOTES SOME EXAMPLES OF THE UNUSUAL AND SOMETIMES HARSH WEATHER THAT AFFECTED THE WORLD THIS YEAR. WESTERN EUROPE IS STILL IN THE GRIP THE OF THE HOTTEST, DRYEST SUMMER IN A CENTURY WHICH HAS CAUSED THOUSANDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN CROP DAMAGE. DROUGHT HAS CAUSED SUBSTANTIAL CROP AND LIVESTOCK DAMAGE TO PARTS OF AFRICA, AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES. ON THE OTHER HAND, ASIA HAS SEEN THE RETURN OF THE MONSOONS, ENABLING COUNTRIES LIKE BANGLADESH, PAKISTAN AND INDIA TO HARVEST NEAR RECORD GRAIN CROPS.

ONE EXPERT TOLD TIME THAT BASED ON CURRENT KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT OR IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCURATELY PREDICT CLIMACTIC CHANGE.

SOME SCIENTISTS BELIEVE THE EARTH IS ABOUT TO ENTER AN AGE OF COOLER TEMPERATURES SIMILAR TO THOSE THAT PREVAILED FROM AROUND THE YEAR SIXTEEN HUNDRED TO ABOUT 1850.

VOICE: "IN 1972, ACCORDING TO A GERMAN CLIMATOLOGIST, HORST DRONIA, THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WAS ONE FULL DEGREE CENTEGRADE COLDER THAN IN 1949. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS OF A SLIGHT WARMING SINCE THEN. IF THE COOLING THEORY SCHOOL IS CORRECT, HOWEVER, THE PROSPECTS FOR MAN ARE CHILLING. A GLOBAL AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DROP OF ONLY ONE DEGREE COULD SHORTEN THE GROWING SEASONS IN THE TEMPERATE ZONES BY A CRITICAL WEEK OR MORE AND REDUCE FOOD SUPPLIES. INCREASED HEATING REQUIREMENTS WOULD PUT A FURTHER STRAIN ON ENERGY SOURCES."

REPORTER: OTHER CLIMATOLOGISTS, SAYS TIME, BELIEVE THAT ANY LONG-TERM COOLING IS BEING OFFSET BY WHAT THEY CALL "THE GREEN HOUSE EFFECT " WHICH TRAPS HEAT IN THE ATMOSPHERE, THUS CAUSING A WARMING TREND.

VOICE: "EVEN A MODEST RISE IN WORLD TEMPERATURES WOULD BRING WITH IT OTHER PERILS. OCEAN LEVELS RAISED BY MELTING POLAR ICE COULD DRASTICALLY CHANGE GLOBAL AIR-CIRCULATION AND RAINFALL PATTERNS, AS WELL AS CAUSE EXTENSIVE FLOODING. THE RESULT COULD BE A RADICAL DECLINE IN THE PRODUCTIVITY OF MANY OF THE WORLDS' IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL REGIONS."

REPORTER: TIME SAYS THAT CLIMATOLOGISTS MAY DISAGREE WITH THE CAUSES OF THE CHANGES, BUT THEY DO TEND TO AGREE THAT WHATEVER THE TREND, THE EARTH'S CLIMATE IS ENTERING A PERIOD OF INCREASED VARIABILITY THAT WILL MAKE PREDICTION AND PLANNING EVEN MORE DIFFICULT. TIME QUOTES A NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION REPORT:

VOICE: "OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE MECHANISMS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS AT LEAST AS FRAGMENTARY AS OUR DATA. NOT ONLY ARE THE BASIC SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS LARGELY UNANSWERED, BUT IN MANY CASES WE DO NOT KNOW ENOUGH TO POSE THE KEY QUESTIONS."

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ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK, SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM MAGAZINES PUBLISHED IN THE UNITED STATES. NEXT WEEK (AT THIS TIME) JOIN US AGAIN FOR MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK.

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